

Riddell Faculty Seminar Series presents:

## A Scramble for the Arctic?

# Making Sense of Arctic Demands and a Demanding Arctic

**Dr. Klaus Dodds,** Professor of Geopolitics, University of London

**Date:** Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Place:** Klaus Hochheim Theatre  
(5th floor, Wallace Building)

**Abstract:** In this lecture, I argue that appeals to scrambles and scrambling discourses and imaginaries contribute to a '*demanding Arctic geopolitics*'. The Arctic, in all its complexity, has demanded attention but it is also making demands of its own in terms of climate change, resource exploitation, indigenous land claims and rights, and the interaction between the eight Arctic states and the wider global community. Indigenous peoples make their demands for autonomy and resource rights while extra-regional powers press their own interests to be represented and involved in Arctic governance. Three themes will be teased out for further scrutiny - the demand for action and inaction; the way in which demands recalibrate distance and proximity and finally how demands force us to rethink our relationships between human and non-human communities. If there is a scramble for the Arctic perhaps it is best understood as 'scrambling' in the sense of forcing us to think harder and longer (and with more care and responsibility) about how we make sense of a space so often thought of as a blank or near empty space, at least by 'southern' communities.



**Biography:** Klaus Dodds is Professor of Geopolitics at Royal Holloway University of London and Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He is the author of many books and articles about the geopolitics and governance of the Arctic and Antarctic including a co-authored book with Mark Nuttall entitled, *The Scramble for the Poles: The Contemporary Geopolitics of the Arctic and Antarctic* (Polity 2015). In 2014-15, he served as the specialist adviser to the House of Lords Select Committee on the Arctic and in 2015 he was appointed to the advisory council of the All Parliamentary Party Group on the Polar Regions. He is a council member of the Canada-UK Council.

1:00 p.m.

Free pizza lunch for graduate students with Dr. Dodds,  
Dean's Office Boardroom - 440 Wallace Building.